

Hands On Hartford, in partnership with others, strengthens community in Hartford by responding faithfully to people in need through programs that change lives and renew human possibility.

You Can Make A Difference This Summer!

Bring hope to our neighbors through a donation to Hands On Hartford. Every day, folks come to us who don't have enough food for their children, who can't afford housing for their families, whose minimum wage work just doesn't earn enough to pay the bills, who are seniors living on a low fixed income with no hope for change. **Please join us in reaching out a helping hand this summer.** To donate online, go to www.handsonhartford.org, and click the "Donate Now" button, or mail your gift to Hands On Hartford, 55 Bartholomew Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. **Thank you for reaching out a helping hand this summer.**



Hands On Hartford Adopts New Strategic Plan

With advice and guidance from FIO Partners and the financial support of Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Hands On Hartford has adopted a new Strategic Plan that will guide our future growth, improvement and development . Under the new Strategic Plan, we will:

- Emphasize health and nutrition throughout all of our service areas
- Increase our focus on the most impactful community engagement experiences, including Dashes for a Difference and Immersions
- Create a buzzing, vibrant center for community through various Hands On Hartford ventures (the Café at Fifty-Five, kitchen and space usage, community events)
- Improve our visibility and fund development efforts in order to assure long term sustainability of our services and programs

We're always happy to share details about our plans and services—call any time, our doors are always open!

Faith In Action

What a fabulous week of serving, learning and giving we had last week! **THANK YOU to the kids (and adults) from Rockville United Methodist Church** - you all made such a

huge difference in Hartford. This incredibly generous group worked here at Hands On Hartford for our food pantry, soup kitchen and children's backpack nutrition program; at Keney Park; at Mercy Housing and Shelter; at the Hartford City Police complex; at the Hartford Boys and Girls Club, and at Knox Parks. They also hosted a Faces of Homelessness speaking event, hearing about real life experiences of folks who have been homeless. Be sure to check out our Facebook page for more great photos of the week.



Spotlight on: AmeriCorps VISTA support

For the past year, two extraordinary AmeriCorps VISTA members, Alexandra Klindienst and Valery Zapata (center, top and bottom) made huge contributions here at Hands On Hartford. Ally spent the past year focused on food access and increasing the flow of healthy foods to our pantry and backpack nutrition program, and Valery focused on community engagement, working with volunteers and improving our orientation materials and processes. Sadly, their year of service has ended and we bid them a fond farewell. They both brought a huge amount of spirit, energy, creativity and plain old hard work to Hands On Hartford and we'll miss them! We hope you'll add your best wishes to ours!



Happy News: Serika Walker (left) is still with us, co-coordinating the Faces of Homelessness Speakers' Bureau and supporting our Community Meals program, and starting in August she will step up to the VISTA Leader position here with the Hartford Thrive! Project, supervised by Wanda Guzman (right).

Be sure to take a look at the updated version of our 2016 Annual Report for more information about the Hartford Thrive! Project, supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service—available on our website, www.handsonhartford.org.

We all have our hands on Hartford!



Hands On Hartford's Shared Use Kitchen

Members of our Shared Use Kitchen now include Loafing Around, Simply Fresh Food with Chef Renee, Butcher & Red, Pretzel Haus, Sarah's Creative Treats, and Q's Infusions. We're delighted to see them in action, building their business and creating great cuisine. Our large commercial kitchen is available for use by local chefs and start-ups. For information about membership, contact Barbara Shaw at bshaw@handsonhartford.org.

Van's Warped Tour Food Donation

Thank you to Feed Our Children Now and to all the generous concert-goers at this year's Van's Warped Tour at the XFINITY Theater in Hartford. Volunteers shown here picked up (and weighed and sorted) 3,000 pounds of nonperishable food for the MANNA Community Pantry. This support is so important in the summer, when the need is high. Special thanks for all the heavy lifting to our energetic volunteer corps!



ESPN Day of Service

Thank you ESPN! Those red "Team ESPN" t-shirts were all over Pope Park in Hartford earlier this month, as a huge group of ESPN employees worked hard and had fun painting, weeding, mulching, planting and cleaning up around the Samuel V. Arroyo Recreation Center and Basketball Court. What a gift to all the folks that come to play at Pope Park!

Independence Day Meal

Happy 4th of July to everyone! Here at Hands On Hartford, we celebrated the day with a delicious community meal for 160+ guests. We couldn't have done it without several dozen volunteers - thank you to everyone who helped out. A special thanks to the Goodman family for surprising us with a huge donation of juice, soda, seltzer, cheese and cracker snacks! The weather was great, the kids had fun and everyone loved the meal prepared by Chef Kim Bunton.





If you're looking for a delicious breakfast or lunch, a great cup of coffee, a place to do some work out of the office, or meet with colleagues or friends, come on in to The Café at Fifty-Five here at 55 Bartholomew Avenue.

- Open Tuesday through Friday, 7:30am until 2:30pm.
- Free WiFi, friendly staff, books to borrow, comfortable couches—we have it all!
- If you're in a hurry, call ahead with your order: 860-706-1523.
- We cater! Just give us a call to talk about our menu and get a quote (860-706-1502).
- Check us out on Facebook @TheCafeatFifty-Five

Hands On Hartford Programs

- **MANNA Food Programs:** Community Meals, Community Pantry, Senior Community Café, and Backpack Nutrition Program
- **HOH Neighborhood Services:** homelessness prevention, Operation Fuel, economic stability and health & nutrition services
- **HOH Housing:** supportive housing services
- **Faces of Homelessness** Speakers' Bureau
- **Community Engagement:** volunteer placement, customized community service projects and immersions.

For information about volunteering and customized service projects, contact Wanda at wguzman@handsonhartford.org, 860-706-1507.

For more information about our programs, financial and in-kind support, contact Kate at kshafer@handsonhartford.org, 860-706-1505.

Volunteers Wanted:

Donate, cook and serve a meal for 150 people on Monday, August 28th or Tuesday, August 29th. Volunteers will come in with either prepared food, or with food that needs to be prepared and will also stay to serve meal to clients. Ideal for a group size of 5-12 people. 4:00-7:00pm

Greet and Check-in Guests at Community Meals.

Opportunity is available every other Wednesday 11:15am-1:15/1:30pm and every Monday evening 5:15-7:00pm. Seeking long term volunteers.

Café at Fifty-Five: Café volunteers needed, Tuesday through Friday, shifts available are 7:30am-11:30am and 11:30am-3:30pm

Labor Day Meal: Volunteers needed for our annual holiday meal, September 4, to set up, cook, serve and entertain, at 55 Bartholomew Avenue, Hartford.

Community Meals: 2-3 volunteers needed to serve dinner on the third Monday of each month, from 5:30-7:00pm. Ideally seeking an ongoing commitment.

HOH Gardening Assistance: Help tend and harvest at the Hand On Hartford gardens. Flexible hours.

Contact Wanda Guzman at wguzman@handsonhartford.org or 860-706-1507.



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Check out Amazon Smile – for all Amazon.com shoppers, start your shopping at smile.amazon.com. Select Hands On Hartford as your charity, and you're off and running! .5% of eligible purchases will go to Hands On Hartford.



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